

was absent due to my attendance and participation in a joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee to discuss the legislative priorities of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Had I been present, on roll call number 115, I would have voted No.

On roll call number 116, I would have voted No.

HONORING COLONEL BENTLEY NETTLES

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Bentley Nettles, who is retiring after more than 30 years of service to our country in the United States Army.

Colonel Nettles served for 31 years as a commissioned officer in the United States Army, where he served peacekeeping tours of duty in Bosnia, and combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. In this capacity, Colonel Nettles served as Infantry Officer, Judge Advocate Officer, Information Operations Officer and Red Team Leader. He also served for 28 years in the Texas Army National Guard, where he was activated for support operations in response to hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and border security.

Over his military career, Colonel Nettles has been awarded 24 awards and badges. Such recognition includes: three Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Action Badge. In keeping with the spirit of the Warrior Ethos, he was awarded the Combat Action Badge, which provides special recognition to Soldiers who personally engage the enemy, or are engaged by the enemy during combat operations. Colonel Nettles has also been awarded the Legion of Merit, one of the United States Military's most prestigious awards. The medal is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's history is grounded in the efforts of our men and women who have served in uniform. We must continue to honor them after they have left the armed services by making sure that they have the access they need to educational, health, and career services. Colonel Nettles truly believes this; and so in 2014 I awarded Colonel Nettles the TX-17 Congressional Veterans Commendation. He received this recognition because beyond the medals and the stars, the pins and the ribbons, Colonel Nettles understands the meaning of giving back. He is a founding member and active supporter of the local Wounded Warriors chapter, which has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support our heroes wounded in the line of duty. He is also the Vice Chairman of Brazos Valley Cares, which works to provide financial support for veterans and their families.

I am also proud to call Colonel Nettles a fellow Former Student of Texas A&M University. He earned his bachelor's degree in business management and has embraced what it means to be an Aggie, especially the core values of excellence and selfless-service. In addition to his significant military service, Colonel Nettles has kept his ties to the university and

given back to the Aggie community. Through a large financial gift, he has helped ensure that Texas A&M maintains its global footprint and continues to influence students around the world.

Today, I have requested that a United States flag be flown over the United States Capitol to honor the many contributions of Colonel Bentley Nettles. As I close, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY AM- BULANCE FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the COMM-Unity Ambulance. This volunteer ambulance service will be celebrating 30 years of service on March 18, 2017.

On April 27, 1987, COMM-Unity Ambulance began meeting the needs of residents of Cole, Osage, Miller, and Maries counties. This non-profit organization was originally dispatched from the Saint Elizabeth Care Center with a team of four nurses, four EMT's, and dedicated first responders who were committed to serving their community. The Meta Fire Department housed this organization prior to the completion of its building on May 19, 1988. By October 9, 1989, the volunteer ambulance service had grown to 16 EMT's, four nurses, and 19 first responders. In 1994, a necessary expansion to the building was completed and included a second ambulance bay, meeting/training room, and office.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the COMM-Unity Ambulance and their 30 years of dedicated service to the communities of Cole, Osage, Miller, and Maries counties. The commitment they have shown to the individuals in the counties they serve is a commendable accomplishment.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF CECIL BOSWELL, WWII VETERAN

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impressive and meaningful life of Cecil Boswell, a World War II Veteran from Gainesville, Georgia who sadly passed away on Sunday, February 19th at the age of 99.

Cecil has long been a resident of Gainesville, and will forever be remembered as a hero by his neighbors, his friends, and all those who looked up to him in our corner of Georgia. Having been part of the second wave invading Normandy on D-Day, Cecil exemplified the bravery, courage, and selflessness it takes to serve one's country, and these traits followed him throughout his life, allowing him

to touch the lives of all those who had the opportunity to sit and speak with him.

Northeast Georgia is home to thousands of men and women who have diligently and passionately served the United States. As a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, I feel strongly about our nation's need to meet its obligations to our service members, veterans, and their families, and to support the Americans who have sacrificed much for our freedom and way of life. I am proud of the relationship northeast Georgia has with our nation's bravest citizens, and Cecil Boswell was an important member of the veteran community back home, as well as the Gainesville community as a whole.

He often told of his time fighting in World War II to his friends at the Big Bear Cafe, where he ate breakfast and lunch almost daily. Cecil also walked in each Memorial Day parade along the square, donning his Army uniform as he waved to the crowds. It wasn't until last year's Memorial Day parade that he decided to ride in a car instead of walk, a testament to his unwavering strength and dedication.

Gainesville is better for the time Cecil Boswell gave it, and I am sure the life he led and the stories he told will live on for years to come. Northeast Georgia is blessed to have known Cecil Boswell, and he will be dearly missed.

HONORING STACEY BRESSLER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stacey Bressler, whom the St. Helena Chamber of Commerce has named the 2017 Citizen of the Year. This award recognizes individuals in our community who foster community spirit through their volunteer efforts, and Ms. Bressler exemplifies this mission.

Ms. Bressler is involved in the leadership and day-to-day work of many of our community organizations. Before moving to St. Helena in 1999, Ms. Bressler earned a B.A. in Graphic Design and an M.S. in Library Science. She worked for twenty years in high technology sales and marketing as the Vice President of Business Development for CommerceNet, as well as in sales and marketing positions with Hewlett-Packard, NeXT and Apple Computer, Inc. Ms. Bressler now uses her management and logistics talents in running Bressler Vineyards and serving important community organizations.

Ms. Bressler serves on the Board of Directors for the St. Helena Farmers Market, where she educates community members on the health benefits of eating locally-grown food and donates produce to the St. Helena Food Bank. She also sits on the Board of the St. Helena Hospital Foundation where she raises funds to provide high-quality medical care to those in need. Through her service on the Board of Directors for Planned Parenthood Shasta, Ms. Bressler helps provide necessary and caring services to women and families. Ms. Bressler is also the current President of the Board of Directors for Friends of the Cameo Cinema, which maintains and preserves one of the oldest continuously running single-screen theaters in America.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Stacey Bressler is a hard-working leader and volunteer in our community. The St. Helena Chamber of Commerce has recognized her contribution to the health and vitality of our people and economy. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today and congratulate her on this well-deserved award.

HONORING DR. ALOIS KERTZ FOR RECEIVING THE MISSOURI DAIRY HALL OF HONORS' MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Alois Kertz on receiving the Missouri Dairy Hall of Honors' Meritorious Service Award.

Dr. Alois Kertz was born and raised in Bloomsdale, Missouri as one of six children to Andrew and Mathilda Kertz. He became passionate about the dairy industry through his time growing up on the family dairy farm. Dr. Kertz would go on to graduate from the University of Missouri with a bachelor's degree in Dairy Husbandry in 1967 and a master's degree in Dairy Cattle Nutrition in 1968. He then earned a Ph.D. in Animal Nutrition from Cornell University in 1973. Between earning his master's degree and his Ph.D., Dr. Kertz faithfully served in the United States Army as a Nutrition Research Officer in Natick, Massachusetts and then as a Platoon Leader/Food Supply Manager in Thailand during the Vietnam War. He earned the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service in 1969 through 1970 for his dedicated service to our country.

From 1973 to 1975, Dr. Kertz was employed as a dairy nutritionist at Ralston Purina Company. He then worked for Purina Mills as the manager of dairy and ruminant research from 1975 until 1991, at which point, Dr. Kertz became the director of dairy applied research, nutritional consulting program, and technical services at Purina Mills. Dr. Kertz founded ANDHIL, LLC in 2001 as a tribute to his father's dairy herd through which, Dr. Kertz advises clientele from a variety of private companies, agencies, research institutions, dairy organizations, and publications. Throughout the years, Dr. Kertz has also traveled the world to places like Spain, Italy, South Korea, and Brazil to serve as an on-farm consultant and trainer. In the process of those travels he has become a world renowned leader and researcher in the dairy industry.

Dr. Kertz's work has been published in over thirty scientific journal articles. Additionally, he has written numerous articles and has presented to dairy producer groups here in the United States and around the world. He is an active member of the American Dairy Science Association, American Society of Animal Science, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society for Nutrition, Dairy Calf and Heifer Association, the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists, and serves as a charter member/diplomat of the American College of Animal Nutrition. Recently, Dr. Kertz's expertise has been utilized by the Masaka Diocese in Uganda to start a dairy cow program that is de-

signed to help families in their community get out of poverty.

Dr. Kertz's lovely wife Molly and their four children, Julia, Emily, Nicholas, and Mary are thrilled that his years of hard work are being rewarded with this well-deserved honor. Dr. Kertz has always been known as an incredibly faithful, patient, and generous man. He is a devout Christian and active in the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Webster Groves, Missouri.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Dr. Alois Kertz on this well-deserved award that honors his lifetime of service to the dairy industry.

JONES ACT ANNIVERSARY

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I was elected to seek equality for the 3.4 million American citizens living in Puerto Rico. I am the sole elected representative for the island and I represent more constituents in my sole district than anyone in this House.

I rise today to honor the one hundredth anniversary of the enactment of the Jones Act which conferred American citizenship on Puerto Ricans, on this day in 1917.

Since then, more than 211,000 veterans have served proudly in the U.S. military where they are equal in war but not in peace.

In battle, the sacrifice, blood, and life of Puerto Ricans is equal to that of other Americans, but in peace, at home, Puerto Ricans are second class citizen, unless they move to the States, which more and more are choosing to do because of the disadvantages they face at home.

In addition to the defense of the United States, Puerto Ricans have contributed to our country in many other ways: Puerto Ricans have served as U.S. astronauts, entertainers, athletes, Supreme Court Justices, and even members of Congress.

From the Borinqueneers of the 65th Infantry Regiment to actors and entertainers of all types, the people of Puerto Rico have been making important contributions to the United States in every field you can imagine for over one hundred years.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize this important milestone, I urge my colleagues to take time to reflect on how decisions made in this chamber effect our fellow American citizens in Puerto Rico.

For too long, the U.S. has treated Puerto Ricans as second-class citizens. The unequal treatment Puerto Rico receives under most federal programs is a primary cause of the economic and fiscal crisis the island currently faces.

Only by treating the residents of Puerto Rico as it does residents of the 50 states will the promises made by the U.S. government to Puerto Ricans one hundred years ago this day be fulfilled.

That's why I stand with the will of the People of Puerto Rico, to be incorporated to the United States, as the 51st State of the Union, as requested in the 2012 local Plebiscite by 61 percent of voters.

Let this House fulfill the promise that the United States of America is a nation of liberty and justice, for all of us.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL GANG INVESTIGATORS NETWORK 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Gang Investigators Network. MARGIN is a group of federal, state, and local law enforcement professionals, representing agencies throughout Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. who work together to promote officer and public safety by providing relevant gang information to law enforcement officers.

What started as an informal group of gang investigators, has turned into monthly meetings where MARGIN participants gather to exchange information on current investigations, gang structure, membership, and new trends and patterns. MARGIN helps our law enforcement successfully tackle the increasingly complex world of gang violence and keep our region safe. On behalf of my constituents, I'd like to thank the entire MARGIN membership for the work that they do to protect Marylanders.

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. BRADLEY AND KATHERINE MORROW UPON THE BIRTH OF THEIR SON, FINNEGAN FOX MORROW

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor constituents of mine, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley and Katherine Morrow, on the birth of their son, Finnegan Fox Morrow. Bradley and Katherine are residents of Jefferson City, Missouri and welcome their new son into their family along with older brother Bennett.

Bradley and Katherine were married on September 15, 2012 and Finnegan was born on September 14, 2016, which made for a wonderful 4th wedding anniversary present. Bradley works for Division of Professional Registration with the State of Missouri and Katherine is a marketing designer for a Jefferson City magazine.

Many family members have been excited to welcome Finnegan, including maternal grandparents Milton and Cherie Barr, paternal grandparents Sally, Michael and Elizabeth Morrow, and paternal great-grandparent Joseph Morrow.

I ask you to join me in congratulating the Morrow family on this new addition to their family.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER

HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Placer County